

PRESS RELEASE

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Madison, Wisconsin -- Erik C. Peterson, United States Attorney for the Western District of Wisconsin, announced that Nicole L. Howe, 25, of Janesville, Wisconsin, was sentenced today by U.S. District Judge John C. Shabaz to 10 years in prison for distribution of crack cocaine. Howe pleaded guilty to this charge on February 22, 2007.

In August 2006, Howe distributed over 35 grams of crack cocaine to a police informant in Beloit, Wisconsin. After Howe's arrest, officers found prerecorded police buy money in Howe's possession from previous sales of crack cocaine to the police informant. At the time of the offense, Howe was on extended supervision from the State of Wisconsin for possession with intent to distribute crack cocaine.

The charge against the defendant was the result of an investigation conducted by the Rock County Safe Streets Task Force comprised of the Federal Bureau of Investigation; the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; the Drug Enforcement Administration; the Rock County Sheriff's Department; the Beloit Police Department; the Janesville Police Department; and the Wisconsin Department of Justice, Division of Criminal Investigation-Narcotics Bureau. To date, a total of 33 defendants have been convicted of federal drug and gun charges resulting from Task Force

investigations. The prosecution of the case has been handled by Assistant U.S. Attorney David J. Reinhard .

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